

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A method for creating an anatomic working space in a body for a minilaparotomy procedure, comprising:

inserting at least one first piercing retractor into the body through a minilaparotomy opening, wherein the first piercing retractor has first and second end portions;

puncturing a wall of the body with the first end portion of the first piercing retractor such that the first end portion protrudes from the body and the second end portion is within the body; and

lifting the wall of the body using the first piercing retractor and moving around the second end portion of the first piercing retractor within the body until enough anatomic working space is created in the body to treat a first tissue.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

inserting at least one second piercing retractor through the opening, wherein the second piercing retractor has first and second end portions;

puncturing the wall of the body by the first end portion of the second piercing retractor such that the first end portion protrudes from the body; and

holding back at least one second tissue by using the second end portion of the second piercing retractor to expose a first tissue.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising holding the first tissue by a forceps with a bent handle through the minilaparotomy opening.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising holding the first tissue by a needle driver with a bent handle through the minilaparotomy opening.

Claim 5 (Original): The method according to claim 1, further comprising connecting a grip to the first piercing retractor prior to lifting the wall of the body to create a desirable anatomic working space.

Claim 6 (Original): The method according to claim 1, further comprising securing the first end portion of the first piercing retractor to a retractor bar.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the minilaparotomy opening is cut to be about 7 to 10 cm.

Claim 8 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the first end portion of the first and second piercing retractors have an end sharp enough to puncture the wall of the body without using an additional surgical instrument.

Claim 9 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the second end portion of the first piercing retractor has a blade wide enough to lift the wall of the body without damaging the wall.

Claim 10 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the second end portion of the first piercing retractor is detachable.

Claim 11 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the second end portion of the second piercing retractor has a blade wide enough to hold back the second tissue.

Claim 12 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the minilaparotomy procedure is applied to one of a general surgical procedure, extraperitoneal and transperitoneal kidney surgical procedures, adrenal surgical procedures, a bladder surgical procedure, transperitoneal and extraperitoneal prostate surgical procedures, transperitoneal and extraperitoneal ureter surgical procedures, a gynecologic procedure, a vascular surgical procedure, aortic and caval surgical procedures, an adrenal surgical procedure, a transplant surgical procedure, a neurosurgical surgical procedure, and an orthopedic surgical procedure.

Claim 13 (Original): The method according to claim 12, wherein the general procedure is applied to one of liver, pancreas, gall bladder, spleen, stomach, small bowel, large bowel, and

rectum.

Claim 14 (Original): The method according to claim 12, wherein the extraperitoneal kidney surgical procedure is applied to one of nephrectomy, live donor nephrectomy, radical nephrectomy, nephrolithotomy, cyst marsupialization and partial nephrectomy.

Claim 15 (Original): The method according to claim 12, wherein the transperitoneal kidney surgical procedure is applied to one of nephrectomy, live donor nephrectomy, radical nephrectomy, nephrolithotomy, calicoplasty, calicorraphy and partial nephrectomy.

Claim 16 (Original): The method according to claim 12, wherein the bladder surgical procedure is applied to one of transperitoneal, extraperitoneal, cystectomy, cystotomy, urinary diversion using ileum or colon and vesicolithotomy.

Claim 17 (Original): The method according to claim 12, wherein the prostate surgical procedure is applied to one of radical prostatectomy and suprapubic prostatectomy.

Claim 18 (Original): The method according to claim 12, wherein the transperitoneal and extraperitoneal ureter surgical procedures are applied to one of ureterolithotomy, ureteroureterostomy, calicoureterostomy and ureteopyeloplasty.

Claim 19 (Original): The method according to claim 12, wherein the gynecologic procedure is applied to one of uterus, ovaries, fallopian tubes, and vagina.

Claim 20 (Original): The method according to claim 12, wherein the vascular surgical procedure is applied to one of arteries and veins.

Claim 21 (Original): The method according to claim 12, wherein the transplant surgical procedure is applied to one of liver, pancreas, small and large bowels, and kidney.

Claim 22 (Original): The method according to claim 12, wherein the neurosurgical surgical procedure is applied to one of spine, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves.

Claim 23 (Original): The method according to claim 12, wherein the orthopedic surgical procedure is applied to one of spine, spinal cord, and osseous structures.

Claims 24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): ~~The surgical instrument according to claim 24, A~~
surgical instrument for creating an anatomic working space in a body for a minilaparotomy
procedure, comprising:

a piercing retractor for lifting a wall of the body and having first and second end portions, wherein the first end portion has an end sharp enough to puncture the wall of the body without using an additional surgical instrument and a blade at the second end portion that has a blade wide enough to lift the wall of the body without damaging the wall to create the anatomic working space; and

one of a grip and a retractor bar secured to the first end portion of the piercing retractor, wherein the blade has a through-hole having a diameter greater than the first end portion and smaller than the second end portion.

Claims 26-33 (Canceled).

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
a procedure prior to inserting the at least one first piercing retractor including:

forming a minilaparotomy opening in the body;

forming a trocar opening in the body;

inserting a trocar into the trocar opening; and

introducing a telescope through the trocar to observe and illuminating a first tissue to be surgically treated.

Claim 35 (Canceled).